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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT WASHINGTON

January 4, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretaries of Departments and Heads of Agencies

On November 9, I had the unpleasant task of notifying all of you that the State Department's International Conferences and Contingencies account was being reduced and that we would have to cease funding other (non-State) U.S. Government delegates to international conferences. We anticipated and received a large volume of complaints from various levels of the USG concerning this issue, and a number of other departments and agencies went directly to the Hill.

As a result of your efforts with the Congress, the ICC appropriation has been restored to the FY-87 funding level of \$6 million, and the language regarding not funding non-state delegates has been removed.

I am, therefore, directing the Office of International Conference Programs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, to fund other agency delegates to international conferences consistent with last year's (FY-87) funding numbers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you have given us in ameliorating the funding situation.

Ronald I. Spiers

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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT WASHINGTON

November 9, 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretaries of Departments and Heads of Agencies

As you are all painfully aware, the International Conferences and Contingencies account has gone from roughly \$9 million (FY-86) to \$6 million (FY-87) to a projected \$4.6 million for FY-88.

With only \$4.6 million available to fund over 600 conferences, we simply can't "thin the soup" any longer with other agencies without doing further serious damage to our own conference participation. Therefore, consistent with Congressional intent, I have directed the Office of International Conference Programs, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, to cease funding for all conference participants other than State Department delegates effective immediately.

Clearly, there are many meetings which the United States must attend to protect U.S. interests and advance policies of particular importance. It is vital during this critical period that we not impose isolation of the United States by curtailing necessary conference attendance. I therefore urge that you weigh participation in international conferences and meetings against the scale of national interest and ensure that we do not attend meetings of marginal importance or include non-essential personnel on delegations. In these straitened circumstances, we must make significantly greater use of personnel already stationed abroad.

I recognize that travel funds for all Government Agencies have also been cut, but urge you to make every effort to share the load by funding your essential personnel from resources available within your allocation, possibly combining conference participation with other Agency travel. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the conference funding support you have given us over the last two fiscal years.

Other U.S. Government departments and agencies are being informed of this critical funding situation and asked to extend their cooperation.

Ronald I. Spiers

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